

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 12-14, 23, 24, 28-30, 34-36, 45-47 and 49 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 9, 12, 23, 24, 28, 31, 34, 45-47 and 49 are independent. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-2, 7, 10, 12, 13, 23-24, 28, 29, 32, 34, 35, 45-47 and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,195,090 to Riggins, III (hereinafter, merely "Riggins") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,990,681 to Wang, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Wang")

Claims 8, 14, 30 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Riggins in view of Wang and further in view of US 2005/0198668 A1 to Yuen, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Yuen").

Applicants submit that the provisional application from which Wang claims priority has a U.S. filing date of August 9, 2001. The present application, on the other hand, has a U.S. filing date of July 11, 2001 and is entitled to the benefit, under 35 U.S.C. §119, of Japanese application 2000-213256 filed on July 13, 2000 in Japan. An acknowledgement of

such claim of priority and receipt of the priority document is provided on the summary sheet of the first Office Action, which was dated January 11, 2006.

Thus, the present application has prior U.S. filing date. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Wang is not qualified as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and thus all of the outstanding rejections based upon Wang in the outstanding Office Action are overcome.

In view of above statements, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 12-14, 23, 24, 28-30, 34-36, 45-47 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, although the applicants have asserted that Wang is not an effective reference against the present application, such assertion is not a representation concerning distinctions and/or similarities between the present invention and Wang. Applicants reserve their right to traverse any further rejection that may be presented on a similar document and having an earlier effective date.

CONCLUSION

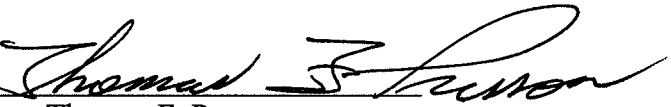
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any
overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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